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LIVING THE VOW OF POVERTY TODAY

*I*t was in 1987 that the new edition of the Rule of Life was adopted. After a long process, Spiritans wanted to re-state who they were and how they wanted to live. Twenty years have gone by since then. While our Gospel ideals remain the same, the world has changed a lot and Spiritans need to realise this in the living out of their commitments. One of the most sensitive areas here is the practice of the vow of poverty.

Reflecting on the spiritual renewal of the Congregation, the General Chapter of Torre d'Aguilha distinguished between "poverty suffered", which is an objective evil, and "poverty chosen", which is a way of following Christ. The latter cannot be imposed from outside, neither can it be a flight from reality. In taking the vow of poverty, Spiritans wish only to follow Christ and live the values of the Reign of God which he proclaimed. In this perspective the present number of "*Anima Una*" deepens one particular aspect of the preceding number entitled "Living Spiritan Spirituality"¹.

¹ Cf. I/D No.60.